

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FINAL STEEL SHOT REGULATIONS FOR ATLANTIC AND MISSISSIPPI FLYWAYS ISSUED

Steel shot zones for waterfowl hunting in 13 States of the Atlantic Flyway and 12 Mississippi Flyway States are described in final regulations published in the April 28, 1977, Federal Register by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The regulations take effect on May 28, 1977. The 1977 hunting season will be the first in which steel shot is required in the Mississippi Flyway.

Steel shot zones are being established to reduce the number of deaths to waterfowl caused by eating spent lead pellets, which are toxic.

On December 23, 1976, the Service published in the Federal Register a description of areas proposed to require steel shot for waterfowl hunting in hunting seasons commencing in 1977. Included were steel shot zones for Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia of the Atlantic Flyway; and Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Tennessee, and Wisconsin of the Mississippi Flyway.

The proposed steel shot zones were areas where annual deposits of lead shot in waterfowl feeding areas are most concentrated, or areas identified by State agencies where lead poisoning due to shot ingestion is known to occur. Because of limitations in the amount of ammunition

(more)

that could be distributed and made available to hunters in the first year of the program, the areas proposed generally included one-third or less of the duck harvest in the Mississippi Flyway States. In most cases zones were identified in the proposal as entire counties. It was anticipated that suggestions would be made during the period for public comment to better delineate the steel shot zones.

Valuable comments on the proposed steel shot zones for 1977 were received from December 23, 1976, to February 15, 1977. As a result of these comments, a number of changes from the proposed steel shot zones for 1977 were incorporated into the final rules. These changes were based on information submitted by State agencies or other organizations, and on comments by persons familiar with waterfowl and waterfowl hunting in the proposed zones. Changes were made for the following reasons:

--The distribution of waterfowl and waterfowl hunting activity could be delineated more precisely than in the proposal.

--State agency understanding of local conditions suggested that the proposed zones did not properly describe the areas where lead poisoning would be most likely to occur. These States requested changes in the proposed zones pending completion of ongoing or planned studies aimed at more precise identification of the problem areas in 1978.

--Steel shot shells could not be made available to hunters due to location of the zone in relation to retail stores that supply ammunition to hunters.

--Improved boundary descriptions to assist hunters and law enforcement officers.

The zones are:

CONNECTICUT

Those portions of New Haven and Fairfield Counties bounded on the North by Rte. 195; on the East by the New Haven-Middlesex County line; on the South from where the New Haven-Middlesex line meets the shore around the most southern land to Hammonasset Point, Madison. Inside a line from Hammonasset Point to West Wharf, to Hoghead Point, to Guilford Point, to Mulberry Point, to Vineyard Point. From Vineyard Point around the southernmost land of Sachem Head to Joshua Point. Inside of a line from Joshua Point across Joshua Cove to Joshua, to Roadley Point to Flying Point, to Brown Point, to Haycock Point, to Linden Point. Inside a line from Linden Point across Maltby Cove to the southernmost tip of land and thence to Jeffrey Point. Inside of a line from Jeffrey Point to Indian Neck Point, to Johnson Point, to the northern end of Kelsey Island, to Mansfield Point, to South End Point to Morgan Point to Oyster River Point, to Merwin Point. From Merwin Point around the southernmost point of land to Pond Point. Inside of a line from Pond Point, to Welch's Point, to the northern end of the breakwater at Milford Point, and to Stratford Point, Stratford; on the west by a line from Stratford Point, to Prospect Drive, west to Rt. 113 and north on 113 to Route 195.

DELAWARE

All lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, and streams of the State and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of such waters. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the waters described above are excluded from the non-toxic shot requirement. Areas described as sea duck bones in waterfowl regulations of the State of Delaware are excluded from these provisions.

FLORIDA

In Leon County and on Lake Miccosukee which lies in Leon County and the adjacent portions of Jefferson County; and in that portion of Brevard County lying east of Interstate Highway 95.

MAINE

On the waters of the Kennebec River known as Merrymeeting Bay bounded as follows: from the high tension wires at Chops Point to the first dam on the Androscoggin River, to the first road bridge on the Muddy, Cathance, Abbagadasset, and Eastern Rivers and the Richmond-Dresden bridge on the Kennebec River, and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters being in the counties of Cumberland, Sagadahoc and Lincoln.

MARYLAND

All waters (including lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams, and Chesapeake Bay) in Worcester, Somerset, Wicomico, Dorchester, Talbot, Caroline, Queen Anne's, Kent and Cecil Counties and those portions of Harford, Baltimore, and Anne Arundel Counties lying south and east of U.S. Route 1, and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of such waters. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the waters described above are excluded from the steel shot requirement.

MASSACHUSETTS

Essex County—North Boundary—Massachusetts/New Hampshire line. West boundary—U.S. Rt. 1 from State line southward to juncture with 1A in Newburyport, southward on 1A to juncture with Rt. 133. South boundary—Rt. 133 eastward to juncture Rt. 128 east along 128 to West Bank of Annisquam River. East boundary—West bank of Annisquam River north to Ipswich Bay continuing north along the shoreline

of Ipswich Bay and the Atlantic Ocean to New Hampshire—Massachusetts line.

Plymouth County—North boundary—Rt. 139 from Green Harbor west to juncture with 3A. West and South boundary—Rt. 3A from juncture of 139 south to juncture with Rocky Hill Road. East boundary—Line extending from juncture of Rt. 3A and Rocky Hill Road to Plymouth Lighthouse on Duxbury Beach.

Barnstable County—Barnstable Marshes—North boundary—Cape Cod Bay. West boundary—From Cape Cod Bay south along Sand Neck Road to juncture with Rt. 6A. South boundary—Juncture of 6A and Sand Neck Road east along Sand Neck Road to juncture with Beach Street. East boundary—Juncture of Rt. 6A and Beach Street north along Beach Street to Cape Cod Bay.

Barnstable County—Nauset Marshes, Pleasant Bay—North boundary—Nauset Beach west along Doane Road to juncture with Nauset Road, southwest along Nauset Road to juncture of Rt. 6. West boundary—South along Rt. 6 from juncture of Rt. 6 and Nauset Road to juncture with Rt. 28. South along Rt. 28 to juncture with Shore Road. Then south along Shore Road to Chatham Lighthouse. South boundary—Line extending due east from Chatham Lighthouse to Atlantic Ocean. East boundary—Atlantic Ocean.

Bristol County—Waters of the Wareham River, Weweantic River, East Branch of the Westport River, and the West Branch of the Westport River, and the marshes adjacent to these rivers, and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to these rivers and marshes, seaward from the first upstream bridge.

NEW JERSEY

That portion of the State bounded on the north by Highway 36 from its intersection with the Garden State Parkway near Keyport eastward to the Atlantic Ocean (south of Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay), bounded on the west by the Garden State Parkway, and bounded on the south by Highway 585 from its intersection with the Garden State Parkway eastward to the Atlantic Ocean (south of Great Egg Harbor).

NEW YORK

Nassau and Suffolk Counties and that portion of Upstate New York west of Interstate Highway 81 and north of the New York Thruway (Interstate Highway 90).

NORTH CAROLINA

1. All waters (including sounds, lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, and streams) of Currituck, Dare, and Pamlico Counties and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of such waters in these 3 counties. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the waters described above are excluded from the steel shot requirement.

2. The waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries in New Hanover and Brunswick Counties and a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the waters of this river and its tributaries in these 2 counties.

PENNSYLVANIA

Crawford County: Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties and the waters of the Susquehanna River beginning at the confluence of the North and West branches at Northumberland and continuing southward to the Maryland-Pennsylvania State boundary and including a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the waters of the Susquehanna River that are described above.

RHODE ISLAND

That portion of Washington County lying south and east of U.S. Route 1 but excluding Block Island and the waters of Block Island Sound and Narragansett Bay.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Georgetown and Colleton Counties.

VIRGINIA

All waters and a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to these waters in the city of Virginia Beach and in an area between the York River and the James River bounded on the north by U.S. Highway 60, on the west by Highway 185, and on the south by Highway 5.

ARKANSAS

All waters of Poinsett and Arkansas Counties and that portion of Bayou Meta Wildlife Management Area in Jefferson County and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters. This includes lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams, and seasonally flooded areas of all types. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the water areas described above are excluded from the non-toxic shot requirement.

ILLINOIS

1. On all waters and on all lands within 180 yards of these waters in the following counties: Marshall, Putnam, Henderson, Rock Island, Calhoun, and Jersey. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the above described waters are exempted from this regulation.

2. On all State managed lands and waters, including the following public hunting areas: Anderson Lake, Baldwin, Bluff Lake, Carlye Lake and subimpoundments, Chain-O-Lakes, Forbes State Park, Grass Lake, Grundy County, Horseshoe Lake (Alexander County), Horseshoe Lake (Madison County), Kankakee River, Lake DePue, Lake Shelbyville and subimpoundments, LaRue Scatters, Marshall County, Marmet, Oakwood Bottoms, Potters Marsh, Rend Lake and subimpoundments, Rice Lake, Sangamon, Sangchris Lake State Park, Savanna Ordnance, Shawnee Lake, Starland, Spring Lake, Union County, Will County, William Powers, and Woodford County.

3. All waters managed for waterfowl hunting by the Illinois Department of Conservation on the Mississippi River, the Illinois River, and the Rock River from pool 12 at the city of East Dubuque south to the lock and dam at pool 26.

INDIANA

1. On all waters of Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Newton, Jasper, Starke, Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Steuben, and Posey Counties and within 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters. This includes lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams, and seasonally flooded areas of all types. Excluded from these provisions are the waters of Lake Michigan and drainage ditches and temporary sheet water that are more than 150 yards from the waters described above.

2. Within the boundaries of the following State-owned or State-operated properties: Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area in Pulaski County, Mallard Roost Wetland Conservation Area in Noble County, Monroe Reservoir in Monroe and Brown Counties, and Glendale Fish and Wildlife Area in Davies County.

3. Within the proposed boundaries of the Menominee Wetlands Conservation Area in Marshall County.

IOWA

In Fremont and Mills Counties on all waters and a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to these waters. The waters referred to above include lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams and seasonally flooded areas of all types. Excluded from these provisions are the waters of the Missouri River and drainage ditches and temporary sheet water that are more than 150 yards from the waters described above.

LOUISIANA

1. That portion of Vermilion Parish lying north of the Intercoastal Waterway.

2. That portion of Calcasieu Parish lying south of Interstate Highway 10.

3. That portion of Cameron Parish lying north of the Intercoastal Waterway.

4. On the west side of Calcasieu Lake that portion of Cameron Parish lying west of Highway 27 and north of the boundary of the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge.

5. In that portion of the State bounded as follows: From Pineville northeast along State Highway 28 to Archie, then northwest along U.S. Highway 84 from Archie to Jena, then southwest along State Highway 8 from Jena to Pollock, then south along U.S. Highway 165 from Pollock to Pineville.

6. The green-tree reservoir located on the Saline Wildlife Management Area.

OHIO

On all waters of Erie, Ottawa and Lucas Counties and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters. This includes lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams, and seasonally flooded areas of all types. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the water areas described above are excluded from the non-toxic shot requirement.

MICHIGAN

1. That area of St. Clair, Macomb, Wayne and Monroe Counties: Beginning at a point on the Blue Water Bridge at the International boundary between the United States and Canada (Sec. 22, T1N, R17E); St. Clair County: westerly and south on highway I-94 in St. Clair, Macomb and Wayne Counties to the intersection of highway I-75 in the City of Detroit, southerly on highway I-75 in Wayne and Monroe Counties to the State line (Sec. 5, T7S, R8E); east along the State line between Michigan and Ohio to the shoreline of Lake Erie; northeasterly along the State line to the International boundary in Lake Erie; northerly along the International boundary in Lake Erie, the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River to the point of beginning.

2. That area of Iosco, Arenac, Bay, Tuscola and Huron Counties: Beginning at a point at the tip of Tawas Point in Sec. 3 T1N, R8E, Iosco County; northeast, north and west on Tawas Point Road to its intersection with highway US-23 (Sec. 21 T22N, R8E); south and west on highway US-23 in Iosco and Arenac Counties to the intersection with highway M-13 (Sec. 22, T18N, R4E, Arenac County); south on highway M-13 in Arenac and Bay Counties to the intersection with Interstate highway I-75 (Sec. 13, T14N, R4E); south on I-75 to the intersection with highway US-10 and M-20 (Sec. 24, T14N, R4E); west on highway US-10 and M-20 to the intersection with Garfield Road (northeast corner Sec. 27, T14N, R3E); south on Garfield Road and Bay and Saginaw counties to the intersection with Tittabawassee Road (Southwest corner Sec. 35, T13N, R3E); west on Tittabawassee Road to the intersection with Graham Road (northwest corner Sec. 4, T12N, R3E); south on Graham Road to highway M-46 and M-52 (west quarter corner Sec. 28, T12N, R3E); south on highway M-52 to highway M-57 (southwest corner Sec. 7, T9N, R3E); east on highway M-57 to highway M-13 (southeast corner Sec. 13, T9N, R4E); north on highway M-13 to Burt Road (northwest corner Sec. 31, T10N, R5E); east on Burt Road to highway I-75 (Sec. 26, T10N, R5E); north on highway I-75 to highway M-46 (Sec. 28, T12N, R5E); east on highway M-46 to North Gera Road southeast corner (Sec. 27, T12N, R5E); north on North Gera Road to Highway M-15 (Sec. 23, T12N, R5E); north on highway M-15 in Saginaw and Bay Counties to Munger Road (Sec. 18, T13N, R5E); east on Munger Road (M-138)

in Bay County and Fairgrove Road (M-138) in Tuscola County to Wisner Road (southeast corner Sec. 13, T13N, R7E); north on Wisner Road to highway M-25 (Sec. 13, T14N, R7E); east and north on highway M-25 in Tuscola and Huron counties to Kinde Road (Sec. 35, T18N, R10E); east on Kinde Road to highway M-53 (southeast corner Sec. 36, T18N, R12E); north on highway M-53 to the junction with highway M-25 (Sec. 30, T19N, R18E); north to the shoreline of Lake Huron and then northwesterly from this point to the point of beginning (tip of Tawas Point in Iosco County).

3. That area of Muskegon, Newago, Ottawa, Allegan, Kalamazoo and Van Buren Counties: Beginning at the southwest meander corner of Sec. 4, T12N, R18W, Muskegon County, west on a line across Lake Michigan to the State boundary between Michigan and Wisconsin; south along the State boundary to a point directly west of the mouth of the Black River (Sec. 9, T18, R17W) Van Buren County; east along a line to the mouth of the Black River (Sec. 9, T18, R17W); upstream along the south shore of the Black River to highway M-31 in South Haven on M-31 to highway M-43; easterly on highway M-43 in Van Buren and Kalamazoo counties to highway US-131 (Sec. 13, T2S, R12W); north on highway US-131 to highway M-40 and M-89 (Sec. 30, T1N, R11W); west and north on highway M-89 and M-40 to highway US-31 (Sec. 4, T4N, R15W); north on highway US-31 to highway M-45 (northwest corner Sec. 25, T7N, R16W) east on highway M-45 to 68th Avenue (south quarter corner Sec. 22, T7N, R14W); north on 68th Avenue to highway I-96 (Sec. 27, T8N, R14W); west on highway I-96 to highway US-31 (Sec. 16, T9N, R16W); north on highway US-31 to highway M-46 (northwest corner Sec. 27, T10N, R16W); east on highway M-46 (Apple Avenue) to highway M-37 (southeast corner Sec. 23, T10N, R13W); north on highway M-37 to 112th Street (north quarter corner Sec. 18, T11N, R13W); west on 112th Street to Warner Road (Sec. 11, T11N, R14W); north on Warner Road to Roth Road (northeast corner Sec. 26, T12N, R14W); west on Roth Road to Marie Island Road (southwest corner Sec. 19, T12N, R14W); north on Marie Island Road to highway M-20 (southwest corner Sec. 31, T13N, R14W) and continuing north on highway M-20 to Skeels Road (northeast corner Sec. 1, T12N, R15W); west on Skeels Road to Nichols Road (Sec. 2, T12N, R16W); south on Nichols Road to Fruitvale Road (Sec. 2, T12N, R16W); west on Fruitvale Road to highway US-31 (Sec. 10, T12N, R17W); north on highway US-31 to Weinert Road (Sec. 4, T12N, R17W); west on Weinert Road to the southwest meander corner Sec. 4, T12N, R18W (the point of beginning).

4. That area of Roscommon, Missaukee, Kalkaska and Crawford counties: Beginning at the intersection of State Highway M-55 and highway M-76 in Roscommon County (southeast corner Sec. 10, T22N, R1W); north on highway M-76 to the Village of Roscommon, then west and south on county road 100 to the intersection of county road 104 (Sec. 32, T24N, R3W); west on county road 104 to the intersection of highway US-27 (Sec. 33, T22N, R5W); north on highway US-27 to the intersection of Fletcher Road in Crawford County (Sec. 23, T26N, R4W); west and northwest on Fletcher Road to county road 571 in Kalkaska County (Sec. 2, T25N, R5W); south on county road 571 to highway M-55 in Missaukee County (Sec. 32, T25N, R6W); then east on highway M-55 to the point of beginning.

5. That area of Mackinac and Chippewa counties: Beginning at the point where the

Mackinac Straits Bridge intersects the Lake Huron shoreline in Mackinac County north on highway I-75 to highway M-134 (Sec. 4, T42N, R3W); east on highway N-134 to highway M-129 (southeast corner Sec. 25, T42N, R1W); north on highway M-129 to business loop I-75 (Sec. 7, T47N, R1E); north on business loop I-75 to downtown Sault Ste. Marie and extending on a line northward to the International boundary between U.S. and Canada; east and south along the International boundary on the St. Marys River north channel and Lake Huron to a point west of the southwest corner of Cockburn Island (in Canada); east from that point on the International boundary in Lake Huron to the south tip of Goose Island lying southwest of Marquette Island; continuing southwest in Lake Huron to the southernmost point of Mackinac Island and then west to the point of beginning.

MINNESOTA

1. All waters within the boundaries of all State-Wildlife Management Areas and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters. This includes lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams and seasonally flooded areas of all types. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the water areas described above are excluded from the steel shot requirement. Controlled hunting zones of goose management areas are excluded from this provision except the Roseau Wildlife Management Area which is included.

2. On the waters of Swan and Middle Lakes in Nicollet County, North and South Heron Lakes in Jackson County, Pelican Lake in Wright County, Bear Lake in Freeborn County, and Christina Lake in Douglas and Grant Counties and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of the above lakes.

MISSOURI

All waters of St. Charles County and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters. This includes lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams and seasonally flooded areas of all types. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the water areas described above are excluded from the nontoxic shot requirement.

TENNESSEE

Camden, Big Sandy, New Hope, Lick Creek and Harmon's Creek Wildlife Management Areas.

WISCONSIN

1. In that portion of the State lying west of the Burlington Northern Railroad in Buffalo, Trempealeau, LaCrosse, Vernon, Crawford and Grant Counties.

2. On all waters of Dodge, Green Lake, Jefferson and Winnebago Counties, and that portion of Fond du Lac County lying west of a line formed by the Fond du Lac River and Highway 41 and that portion of Lake Winnebago in Calumet and Fond du Lac Counties, and that portion of Lake Poygan in Waushara County; and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters. The waters referred to above include lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams and seasonally flooded areas of all types. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the water areas described above are excluded from the non-toxic shot requirement.

3. On the following State-owned wildlife areas: Mead Wildlife Area in Marathon, Wood and Portage Counties; Mud Lake Wildlife Area in Columbia County; Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area in Dodge and Washington Counties.